

To what extent are
safe distancing
guidelines for
viewing orangutans
adhered to by
tourists in Bukit
Lawang,
Indonesia?



1. Why should we care?
2. How was the data collected?
3. What did the results show?
4. What are the recommendations arising?

1. Why should we care?



Photo by [Jorge Franganillo](#) on [Unsplash](#)

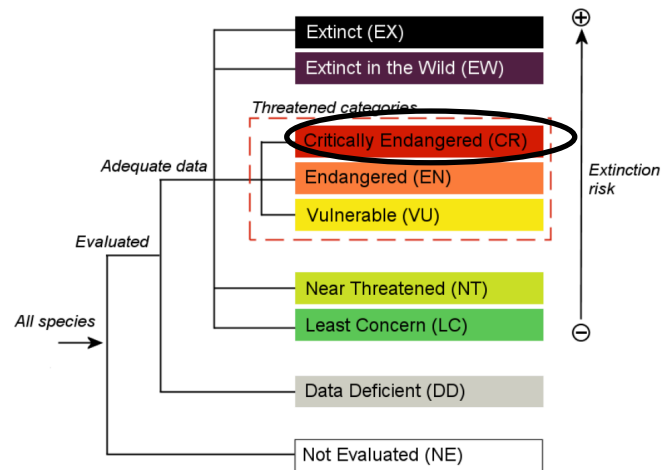
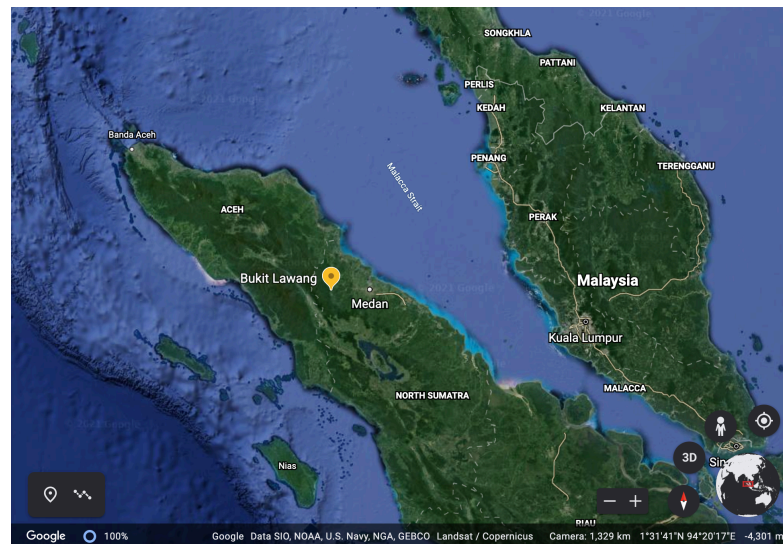
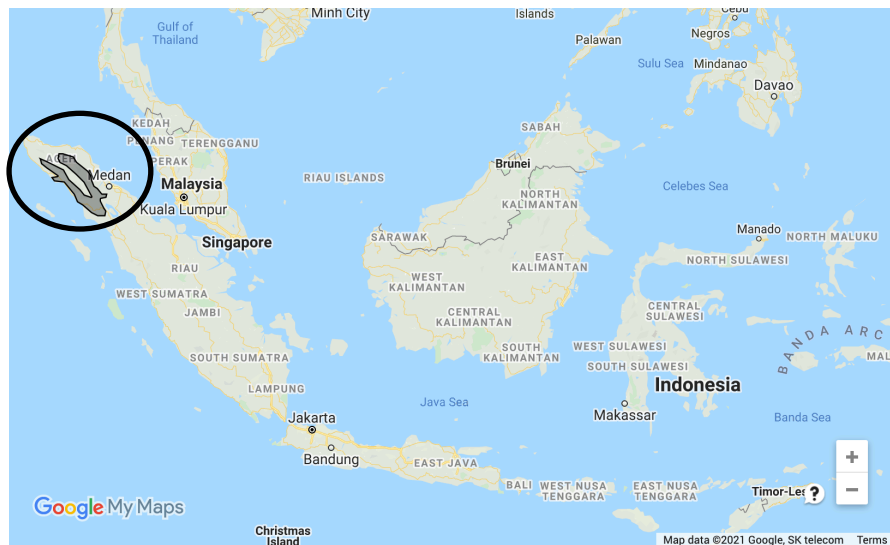


Figure 2.1. Structure of the IUCN Red List Categories

IUCN, 2020

1. Why should we care?



1. Why should we care?



Best Practice Guidelines for Great Ape Tourism

Elizabeth J. Macfie and Elizabeth A. Williamson

A number of high-profile disease outbreaks in ape populations have been reported (Wallis and Lee 1999; Ferber 2000; Leendertz *et al.* 2004; Hanamura *et al.* 2007; Hosaka 2008; Köndgen *et al.* 2008), as well as data showing that, in the right wind conditions, contaminated droplets can travel up to three times the recommended 7 metre minimum distance (Cranfield 2006). Reports from multiple sites confirm that the rules established to protect apes from disease transmission are not enforced adequately or consistently and that safe distances are not maintained (Sandbrook and Semple 2006; Dellatore 2007; Nakamura and Nishida 2009). Consequently, there is increasing

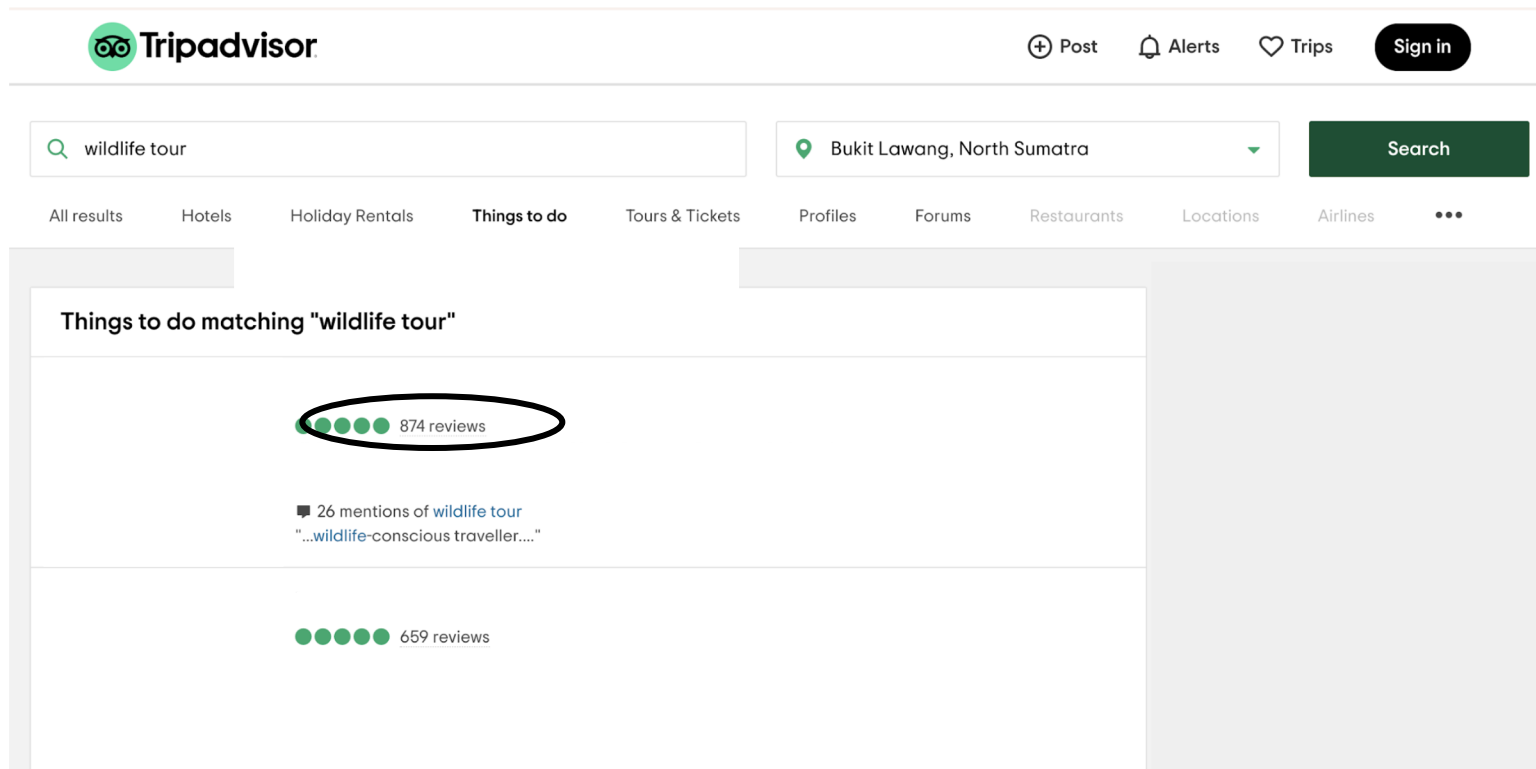
1. Why should we care?

'There have been three infant deaths in the past year but regular human contact with both tourists and guides shows that the potential for disease transmission is not known, not understood, and/or deliberately disregarded

..... the national park authority must become more active in patrolling the forest and enforcing newly established guidelines, which are to be in line with the new IUCN best practices for great ape tourism

(Dellatore, Waitt and Foitová 2014)

2. How did I collect data?



The screenshot shows the TripAdvisor website interface. At the top, the TripAdvisor logo is on the left, and navigation links for 'Post', 'Alerts', 'Trips', and 'Sign in' are on the right. Below the header, there is a search bar with 'wildlife tour' entered. To the right of the search bar, a location dropdown menu shows 'Bukit Lawang, North Sumatra'. A green 'Search' button is to the right of the location dropdown. Below the search bar, there is a horizontal menu with categories: 'All results', 'Hotels', 'Holiday Rentals', 'Things to do', 'Tours & Tickets', 'Profiles', 'Forums', 'Restaurants', 'Locations', 'Airlines', and a three-dot menu. The 'Things to do' category is selected. The main content area shows 'Things to do matching "wildlife tour"'. There are two entries visible. The first entry has a rating of 5 stars (all green) and '874 reviews'. The second entry has a rating of 4 stars (4 green, 1 grey) and '659 reviews'. The first entry is circled with a black oval.

Things to do matching "wildlife tour"

5 stars 874 reviews

26 mentions of [wildlife tour](#)
"...[wildlife](#)-conscious traveller...."

4 stars 659 reviews

(<https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk>, 2021)

2. How did I collect data?



Image by [vandaagevenniet](#) from [Pixabay](#)



Photo by [Bao Menglong](#) on [Unsplash](#)

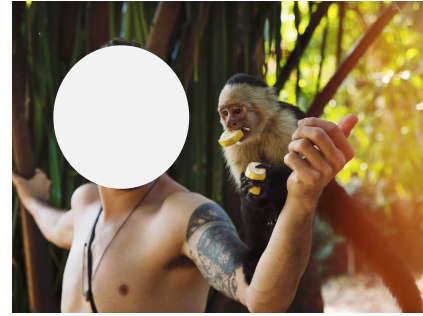
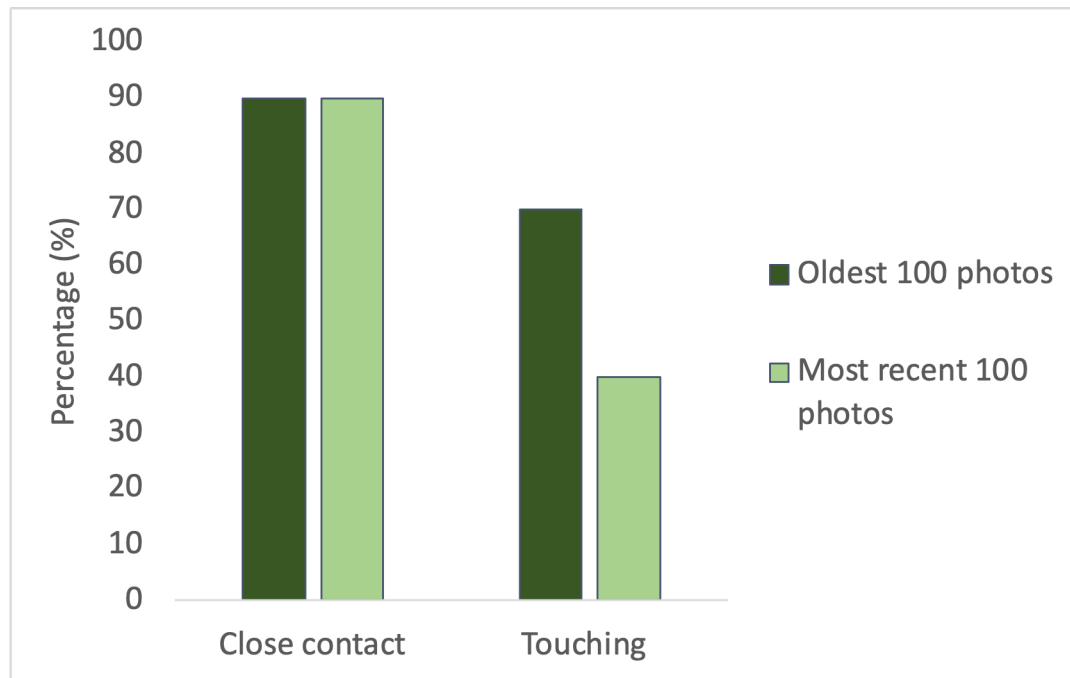


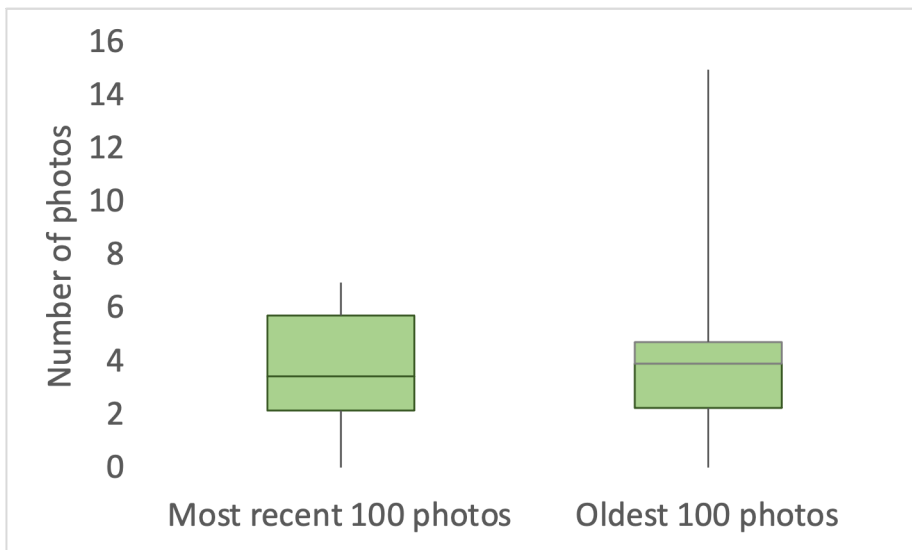
Photo by [Tj Kolesnik](#) on [Unsplash](#)

3. What did the results show?

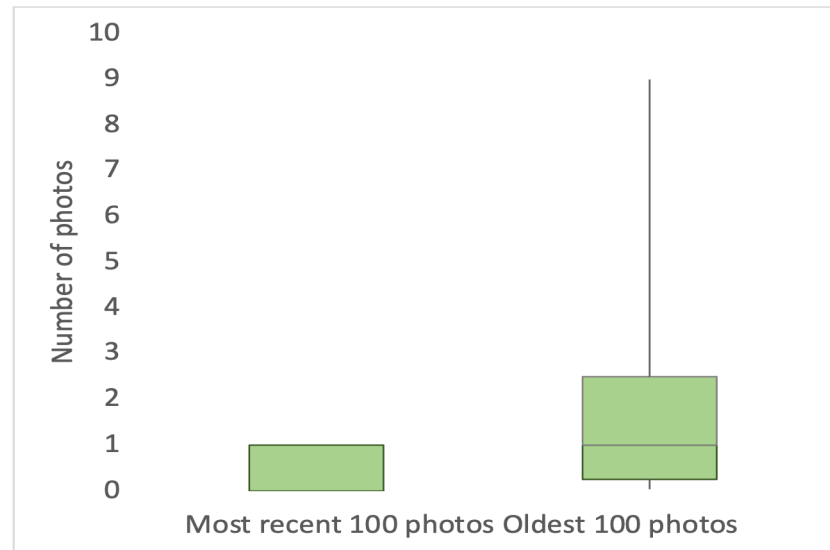


3. What did the results show?

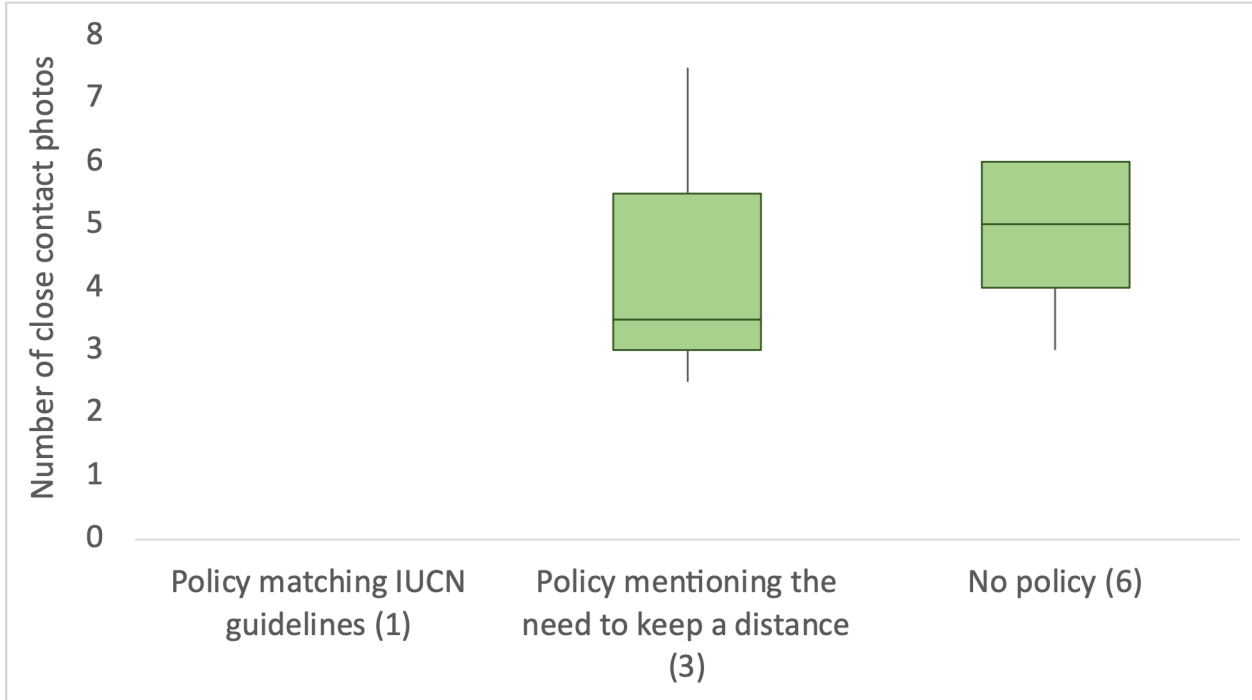
Close contact



Touching



3. What did the results show?



- Only a small proportion of photos uploaded showed instances of close contact.
- Despite this, most tour companies had at least one close contact photo
- Incidences of touching became less common over the time period
- Clear policies *may* have an impact
- This is intended only as a snapshot of what is really occurring

4. What are the recommendations arising?



4. What are the recommendations arising?



‘TripAdvisor bans ticket sales to attractions that allow contact with wild animals’

(Rugby, 2016)

4. What are the recommendations arising?



‘Mask up on gorilla treks to protect them from disease, researchers tell tourists’

Press Association 2021

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